



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE

October 23, 1998

H.R. 3461

An act to approve a governing international fishery agreement between the United States and the Republic of Poland, and for other purposes

As cleared by the Congress on October 20, 1998

H.R. 3461 would approve a fishing agreement between the United States and Poland, reauthorize the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995 and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1995, and renew the authority of the states of California, Oregon, and Washington to regulate the fishery for Dungeness crab in the exclusive economic zone adjacent to those states (3 miles to 200 miles offshore). It also would authorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to certify hydrographic products that satisfy federal standards. NOAA would be authorized to charge a fee for this service and to spend proceeds from these fees without appropriation action. CBO estimates that these provisions would have no significant effect on direct spending.

The agreement with Poland specifies the terms under which Polish vessels that process fish may operate within the exclusive economic zone of the United States. The Polish government would be responsible for submitting an application with an application fee of \$354 on behalf of each vessel that proposes to operate within the United States exclusive economic zone. Fee collections, which CBO estimates would be negligible, would be deposited in the Treasury, and any permits issued would be valid for up to a year. The agreement with Poland would be in effect for two years.

Based on information from NOAA, CBO assumes that the agency would begin certifying hydrographic products and collecting fees in fiscal year 1999. We estimate that proceeds from fees would be less than \$500,000 per year. The fees would be recorded as offsetting receipts and would be available for spending without further appropriation action. Accordingly, the increase in offsetting receipts would be offset by additional direct spending, so the provision would have no significant net impact on the federal budget in any year.

The CBO staff contact is Gary Brown. The estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.